

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAJ-01 CPR-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/064 W

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O R 030820Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 571

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PINT, JA

SUBJ: FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EISAKU SATO

REF: (A) STATE 127668 (B) TOKYO 7253

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. GOJ CABINET AND LDP DECIDED JANUARY 3 TO HOLD NATIONAL FUNERAL, RANKING SLIGHTLY BELOW STATE FUNERAL, FOR LATE FORMER PRIME MINISTER SATO. PRESS SPECULATES IT MAY BE HELD JUNE 16 REPEAT JUNE 16. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE PROVIDED FONOFF WITH QUESTIONS CONTAINED REF A. AS SOON AS ANSWERS ARE RECEIVED, WE WILL CABLE THEM TO YOU. MEANWHILE FONOFF HAS NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION FOR US.

2. ACCORDING TO NHK AND AFTERNOON PRESS JUNE 3, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOJ CABINET AND TOP LDP LEADERS EARLY JUNE 3 DECIDED TO HOLD

"NATIONAL FUNERAL" (KOKUMIN-SO) FOR EISAKU SATO. PRESS SPECULATED THAT THIS FUNERAL MAY BE HELD AFTERNOON OF JUNE 16 REPEAT JUNE 16 AT MARTIAL ARTS HALL (BUDOKAN) IN TOKYO, SITE OF 1967 STATE FUNERAL FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER YOSHIDA.

3. AFTERNOON PRESS JUNE 3 ALSO CARRIED SCHEDULE OF UNOFFICIAL REPEAT UNOFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICES AS FOLLOWS:

JUNE 3 - PRIVATE WAKE AT SATO RESIDENCE IN TOKYO 7-9 PM

JUNE 4 - PRIVATE FUNERAL SERVICE AT SATO RESIDENCE
NOON TO 1 PM WITH CREMATION THEREAFTER

JUNE 5 - PUBLIC WAKE AT HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE 6-8 PM

JUNE 6 - PUBLIC FUNERAL SERVICE AT SAME TEMPLE 1-3 PM.

4. COMMENT. NATIONAL FUNERAL IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN POSTWAR PERIOD, BUT IT APPEARS TO CORRESPOND WITH "CABINET FUNERAL" MENTIONED REF B, FALLING SLIGHTLY BELOW LEVEL OF STATE FUNERAL. ALTHOUGH REASONS FOR "NATIONAL FUNERAL" DECISION NOT YET CLEAR, MAIN FACTOR MAY HAVE BEEN GOJ DESIRE TO AVOID NECESSITY OF DIET APPROVAL--AND POSSIBILITY OF UNSEEMLY DEBATE--WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUIRED FOR STATE FUNERAL. JSP SOURCE, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD EMBOFF THAT OPPOSITION PARTIS WOULD HAVE OPPOSED STATE FUNERAL FOR SATO.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE FUNERALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO07310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750193-0243
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750684/aaaacyye.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 127668, 75 TOKYO 7253
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EISAKU SATO
TAGS: PDIP, JA, (SATO, EISAKU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006